UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/1251
14 December 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 14 DECEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NAMIBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to request you to circulate the attached press release on the Summit on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, held at Windhoek on 12 December 1999, as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Martin ANDJABA
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

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Annex

Press release on the Summit on the Democratic Republic of the Congo held at Windhoek on 12 December 1999

At the invitation of His Excellency President Sam Nujoma of the Republic of Namibia, a Summit of Heads of State of the SADC allied countries in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was held at Windhoek on 12 December 1999. The Summit was attended by President Nujoma, His Excellency President Robert G. Mugabe of the Republic of Zimbabwe, His Excellency President Laurent Desiré Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Honourable Kundi Paihama, Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Angola.

The Summit reviewed the current status of the implementation of the Ceasefire Agreement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Summit noted that significant progress has been made since the signing of the Ceasefire Agreement in July and August 1999. In this regard, the Summit welcomed the inauguration of the Joint Military Commission, established under the Lusaka Agreement, and the deployment of regional joint military commissions in some locations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the purpose of verifying ceasefire implementation. It appealed to the international community to increase its support to the Joint Military Commission.

The Summit noted with concern that, while the ceasefire was largely being observed, there had been violations, particularly in the area of Ikela and Basankusu by the Rwandan and Ugandan-sponsored RCD (Goma) and MLC rebel groups.

The Summit reiterated the commitment of the SADC allied countries to scrupulously observe the Ceasefire Agreement and speed up the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In the same vein, the Summit expressed the hope that other parties will adhere to the letter and spirit of the Ceasefire Agreement.

The Summit agreed to appoint a Special Envoy of the SADC allied countries to enhance the contribution of SADC allies to the peace process.

The Summit welcomed the appointment of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the deployment of United Nations military liaison officers in the capitals of the States parties to the Ceasefire Agreement. The Summit called upon the Security Council to assume its full responsibility in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by authorizing an early deployment of the United Nations peacekeeping forces to expedite the implementation of the Ceasefire Agreement.

The Summit further welcomed the deployment of OAU military observers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It commended the efforts by the Secretary-General of OAU to assist the Congolese people to identify a neutral facilitator for the national dialogue and called upon the Congolese people to fully cooperate with these efforts.

The Summit was briefed by the Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Angola on the developments in his country. The Heads of State expressed strong support for and active solidarity with the Government and people of Angola in their determined and successful military offensive against UNITA. The Summit reiterated their earlier appeal to the international community for urgent humanitarian assistance to the internally displaced population in Angola.

The Summit warmly congratulated President Nujoma for his overwhelming victory as well as that of the SWAPO party in the recently concluded elections in Namibia.

The visiting delegations expressed their sincere appreciation to President Nujoma, the Government and people of the Republic of Namibia for the warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to them during their stay in Windhoek.